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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

(b)   converting the price of the product from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price according to said exchange rate, such that the buyer receives information concerning said final price before a payment transaction is performed;

(c)   receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform said payment transaction;

(d)   converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate; and

(e)   paying the vendor with said converted payment.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) includes the step of receiving payment from an account of the buyer in a financial institution,

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such that said financial institution does not perform step (d).

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the vendor has a Web site and the buyer purchases the product through said Web site to form an e-commerce transaction.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

(i)   receiving said exchange rate at said Web site;

(ii)   converting the price according to said exchange rate to form said final price;

(iii)   constructing a Web page including said final price; and

(iv)   displaying said Web page to the buyer.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein step (d) further comprises the steps of:

(i)   providing a plurality of currency accounts, each currency account having a different type of currency; and

(ii)   transferring an amount of said payment from a currency account containing the local currency of the buyer to a currency account containing the local currency of the vendor to

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form said converted payment.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein step (ii) is performed for a plurality of payments from the buyer to the vendor, such that a plurality of converted payments are formed.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein said exchange rate is guaranteed for a predetermined period of time.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein step (a) includes the step of determining a plurality of exchange rates, each of said plurality of exchange rates being guaranteed for a separate predetermined period of time, wherein step (b) further comprises the step of converting the price of the product to a plurality of payments for being paid by the buyer at a plurality of separate points in time, each payment being converted according to one of said plurality of exchange rates, such that step (c) is performed repeatedly for each payment by the buyer.

10.   The method of claim 8, wherein the vendor purchases a plurality of products from a plurality of suppliers, each supplier being paid in a separate local currency of said supplier, and wherein the vendors sells said plurality of products to a plurality of buyers, each buyer paying in a separate local currency of said buyer, such that step (a) includes the steps of

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determining a first exchange rate for paying said supplier by the vendor and

determining a second exchange rate for paying the vendor by said buyer,

each of said first and said second exchange rates being guaranteed for a

separate predetermined period of time.

11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(f)   combining payments from a plurality of transactions for each

currency account; and

(g)   purchasing additional currency for each currency account in a

FOREX market.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein step (g) includes the step of

prior hedging of each currency in each currency account.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises the

steps of:

(i)   receiving said exchange rate from a FOREX market rate; and

(ii)   transmitting said exchange rate to the vendor.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein said exchange rate is also at

least partially determined according to a margin fee.

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein said exchange rate is set for a

predetermined period of time.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein step (ii) further comprises the step of automatically detecting the local currency of the buyer.

17.   The method of claim 1, wherein steps (c) and (e) are performed through a trustee, such that said trustee receives payment from the buyer and gives payment to the vendor.

18.   The method of claim 17, wherein said trustee receives payment for the vendor on a settlement date.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein step (d) further comprises the steps of:

(i)   aggregating payments from a plurality of buyers;

(ii)   exchanging said payments through a currency exchange market, to provide funds in the local currency of the vendor; and

(iii) transferring said payment to the vendor from said funds in the local currency of the vendor on said settlement date.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein step (a) includes the step of adjusting said exchange rate according to a transaction fee, for performing

~~step (ii) of step (d).~~

21.   The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) is performed by a third party payment clearance mechanism to receive payment from the buyer.

22.   The method of claim 21, wherein a plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms are available for receiving payment from the buyer, such that the vendor selects one of said plurality of third party payment clearance mechanisms in step (c).

23.   A method for performing online hedging at a point of sale for a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the buyer communicating with the vendor through a network, the method comprising the steps of:

   (a)   determining an exchange rate of the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer;

   (b)   converting the price of the product from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price according to said exchange rate, such that the buyer receives information concerning said final price before a payment transaction is performed;

server through the network, such that said Web browser displays said Web page and receives financial information from the buyer for purchasing the product according to said final price, said financial information being sent to said vendor server; and

(d)   a central managing entity for receiving said financial information from said vendor server and for establishing said exchange rate between the local currency of the buyer and the local currency of the vendor, said central managing entity receiving payment from the buyer in the local currency of the buyer, said central managing entity exchanging said payment to the local currency of the vendor, and said central managing entity paying the vendor, such that a transaction between the vendor and the buyer is hedged by said central managing entity.

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(c)   hedging said payment transaction;

(d)   receiving payment from the buyer for said final price to perform said payment transaction;

(e)   converting said payment from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor to form a converted payment according to said exchange rate; and

(f)   paying the vendor with said converted payment.

24.   A system for supporting a transaction for purchasing a product by a buyer from a vendor, the product having a price, a local currency of the buyer being different from a local currency of the vendor, the system comprising:

(a)   a currency server for receiving an exchange rate from the local currency of the buyer to the local currency of the vendor;

(b)   a vendor server for operation by the vendor, said vendor server receiving said exchange rate from said currency server and said vendor server converting the price from the local currency of the vendor to the local currency of the buyer to form a final price, said vendor server providing a Web page containing information about the product and said final price;

(c)   a Web browser for interaction with the buyer, said Web browser being operated by a buyer computational device, said buyer computational device being connected to said vendor